

## **AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A staple apparatus to staple stacks of paper of different thickness for a stapler having a base with a cavity and a staple opening, a mounting bracket attached to the base, a stapling mechanism with a staple driver guide and a lever with a proximal end and a distal end pivotally mounted on the mounting bracket and the apparatus comprising:

an inner base having a top and adapted to be mounted in the cavity in the base;

a sliding bracket mounted slidably on the top of the inner base;

a cutting anvil mounted on the top of the inner base, adapted to be located below the stapling opening and having a top and two opposite side cutting edges;

a cutter mounted on the top of the inner base and the cutter comprising

two articulated arms mounted on the top of the inner base, each of the articulated arms having a distal end pivotally connected to the sliding bracket and a proximal end pivotally attached to the top of the inner base; and

two bending templates mounted respectively on the articulated arms and aligned with the cutting anvil, each of the bending templates having a top, a bottom protrusion with a bottom, a top protrusion formed on the top and having a top surface, an inside face and a bending slot defined vertically in the inside face of the top and the bottom protrusions and the top surface of the top protrusion, and the bottom of each of the bottom protrusions being level with the top of the cutting anvil; and

a cutter actuator adapted to be mounted on the proximal end of the lever and corresponding to the sliding bracket to selectively move the sliding bracket and simultaneously pull the articulated arms thereby the articulated arms approach each other as the lever is pivoted;

wherein the bottom protrusions of the bending templates are respectively moved by the articulated arms to shear excess length off the pointed legs of the staple by the side cutting edges as the articulated arms approach each other, and the top protrusions of the bending templates bend respectively the uncut pointed legs of the staple.

2. (Currently Amended) The staple apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sliding bracket comprises a sliding base slidably mounted on the top of the inner base and a vertical wing with an actuating slot extending upward from the sliding base; and

the cutter actuator comprises two wings adapted to be formed integrally on the proximal end of the lever and extend respectively into the inner base, and an actuating pin attached transversally between the wings ~~to selectively engage the actuating slot in the sliding bracket when the lever is pivoted.~~

3. (Original) The staple apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of the articulated arms comprises a pivoting arm and a movable arm that are pivotally joined together, and the bending templates are mounted respectively on the pivoting arms and aligned respectively with the side cutting edges of the cutting anvil.

4. (Original) The staple apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein each of the articulated arms comprises a pivoting arm and a movable arm that are pivotally joined together, and the bending templates are mounted respectively on the pivoting arms and aligned respectively with the side cutting edges of the cutting anvil.

5. (Original) The staple apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the bending slot in the top surface of the top protrusion of each of the bending templates is formed at an acute angle relative to the inside face.

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6. The staple apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the bending slot in the top surface of the top protrusion of each of the bending templates is formed at an acute angle relative to the inside face.